



## River and Watershed Conference November 2003

## Low-Impact Development Technology

A Comprehensive Innovative Stormwater Management  
 Technology to Protect Both Aquatic Living Resources and  
 Water Resources

Larry S. Coffman  
[lscoffman@co.pg.md.us](mailto:lscoffman@co.pg.md.us)  
 301 883 5834

### Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Management Ecosystem Based Functional Design

“Uniformly Distributed Small-scale Controls”  
 “Integration of Controls with Sites, Streets and Architecture”

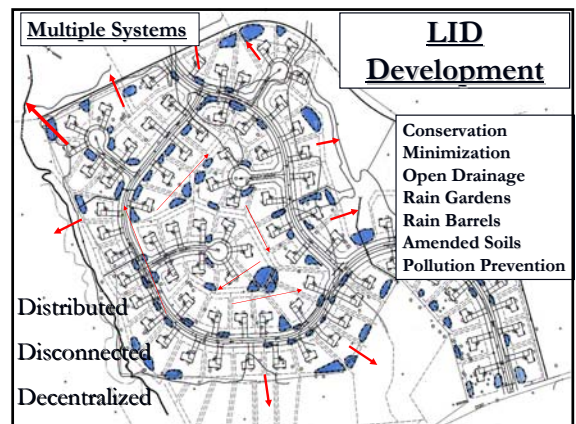
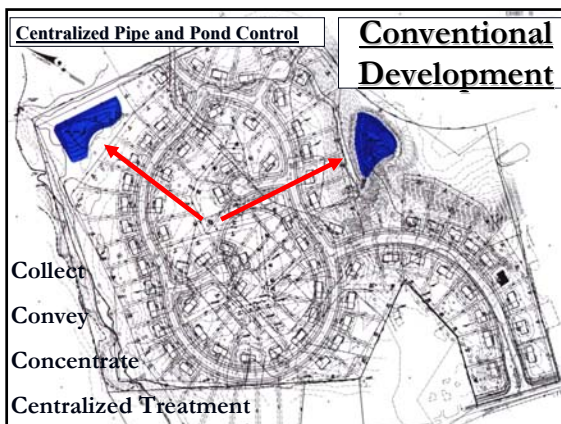
**\* Low Cost & Low Impacts \***

Prince George’s County, MD  
LID National Design Manual 1999

“Centralized versus Decentralized Controls”

## Low Impact Development Technology Overview

- **New Philosophy**
  - Maintaining the Functional Relationship Between Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems
- **New Principles**
  - Decentralized / Source Control
  - Distributed / Multi-functional / Multi-beneficial
- **New and Old Practices**
  - Retain / Detain / Filter / Infiltrate / Treat / Prevent / Use
- **New Process**
  - Conserve / Minimize / Timing / Integrate Practices / Prevent





## Water Resources – Why LID?

- Water Supply
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
  - Flood Control
  - Ecological Health
  - Human Use
  - Regulations

## Limitations of Conventional Stormwater Approaches

- Economics
  - Cost of Maintaining a Growing / Aging Infrastructure
- New Objectives (Public Health / Ecological)
  - Source Water, CSO's, Living Resources / Streams
- Regulations
  - NPDES / TMDL's / ESA



## Issues

West Nile Virus

Safety

Maintenance



## Limitations of Conventional Stormwater Approaches

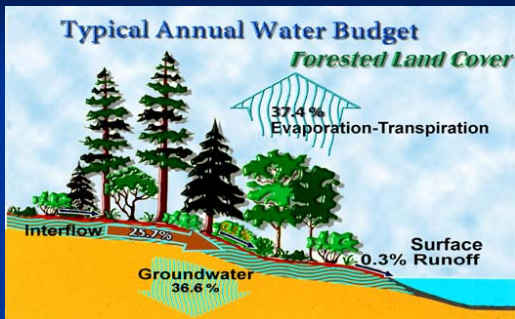
- Technology Gaps
  - Not an anti-degradation strategy
  - Allows hydrodynamic modifications
  - Allows continued stream degradation
  - Allows cumulative impacts
  - Limited use for urban retrofit
  - Unsustainable maintenance burdens

## Ecosystem Protection

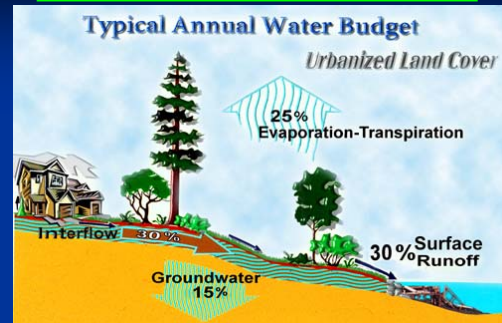
Protecting or restoring the natural functions, structures, and species composition of an ecosystem, recognizing that all components are interrelated. -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Apply ecology, science and engineering to ensure homeostasis between the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems for long-term sustainability.

## *Natural Conditions*



## *Developed Conditions*



## The Problem: Conventional Site Design

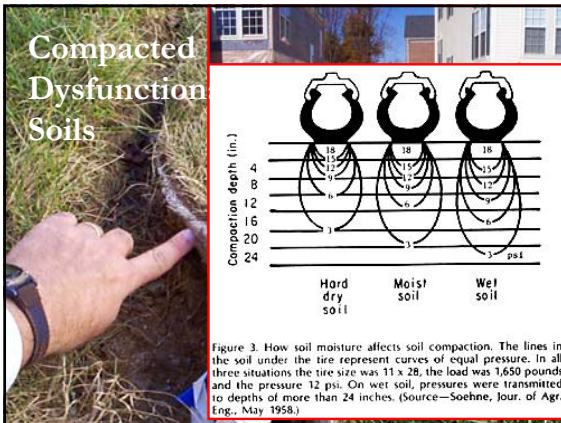
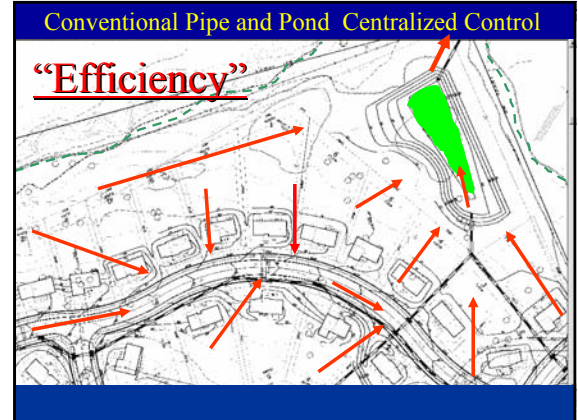
**Collect  
 Concentrate  
 Convey  
 Centralized  
 Control**



Hydrologically  
 Connected







### Soil Ecosystem Functions

Physical / Chemical / Biological

1. Hydrology  
storage / evaporation / recharge / detention
2. Storing Cycling Nutrients (bacteria / fungi)  
phosphorous / nitrogen / carbon
3. Plant Productivity (vigor)
4. Water Quality  
filter / buffer / degrade / immobilize  
detoxify organic and inorganic materials

*"Most diverse ecosystem in the world"*

### Ecological Structure – It's Alive!

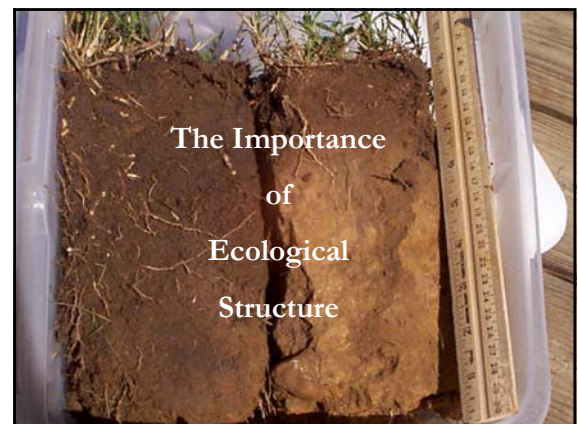
# IT'S NOT DIRT

Soil / Plant / Microbe Complex

A Dynamic Living Ecosystem Cycling Nutrients, Chemicals Water and Energy

Synergistic Relationship

Plants / Bacteria / Protozoa  
Fungus / Worms\* / Insects / Mammals





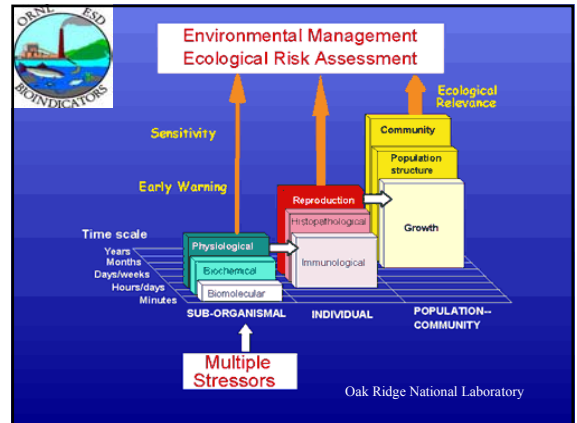
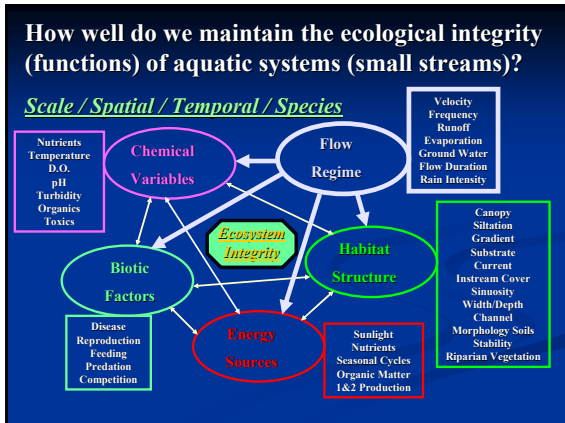
## Impact Reduction or Functional Restoration

**Ecological Integrity Protection**

Species – Fauna / Flora  
 Structure – Spatial / Temp / Distribution  
 Processes – Cycling (Energy / Nutrients)

**Ecological Factors**

1. Hydrology / Hydraulics
2. Habitat Structure
3. Water Quality
4. Energy Sources
5. Biotic Interactions



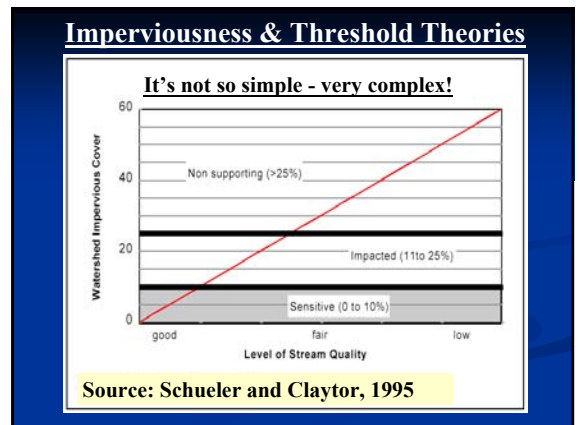
**Stressors**

Habitat Availability, Temperature Regimes, Food

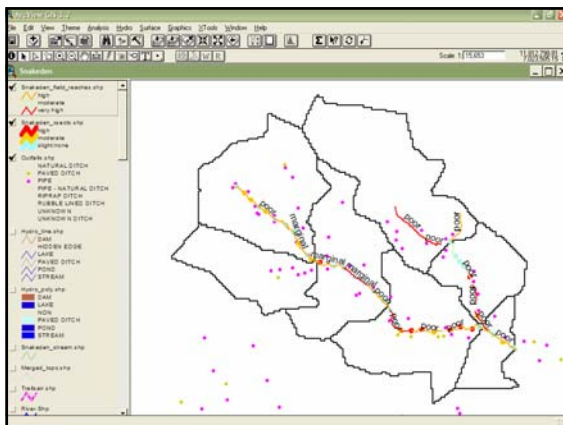
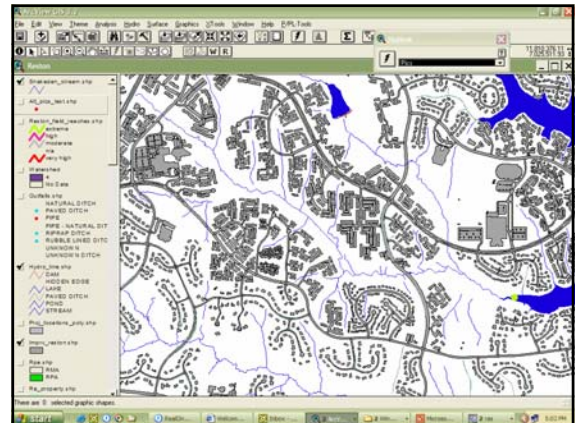
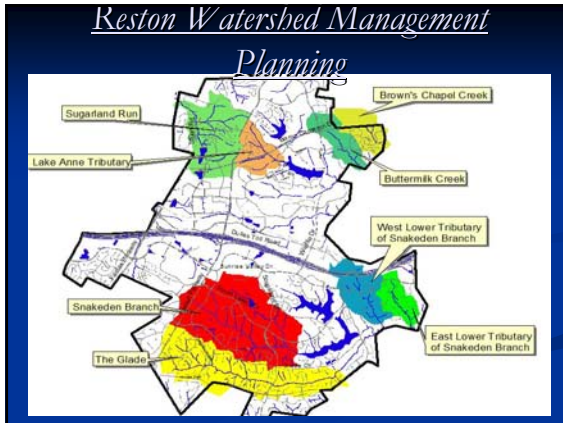
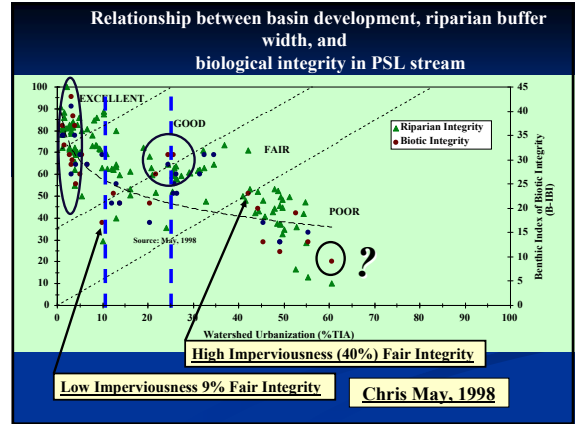
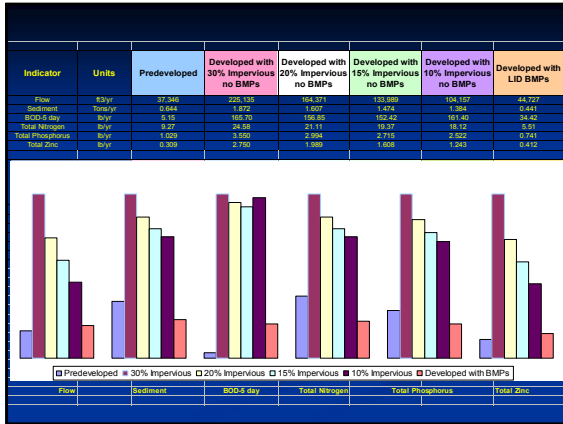
Various Physiological Factors

**Response**

Population Response



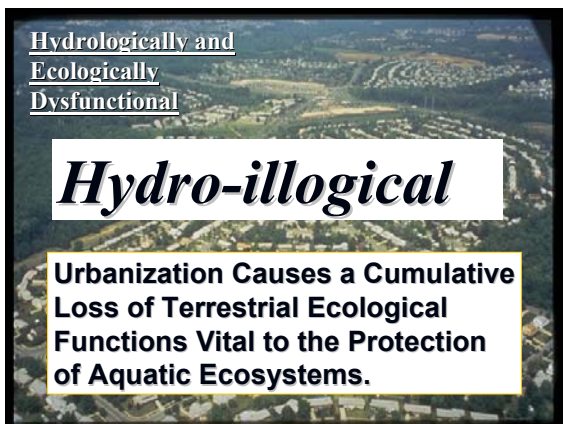






Wet Weather Monitoring					
Maximum Concentrations at In-stream Stations					
Parameter	EPA Criteria		L. Beaver-dam Cr.	Western Branch	Collington Branch
	chronic	acute			
Cadmium (ug/l)	1.1	3.9	40	1.0	10
Copper (ug/l)	12	18	470	30	57
Lead (ug/l)	3.2	83	1700	66	34
Zinc (ug/l)	110	120	5400	160	330
Total P (mg/l)	0.1		3.2	0.74	3.4
TKN (mg/l)			6.0	7.2	9.9
Nitrate (mg/l)	10		2.5	1.0	1.8
BOD (mg/l)	7		71	57	27
TSS (mg/l)	500		4800	910	2500
Fecal Coliform (org/100 ml)	200		220000	13000	17000
Oil/Grease (mg/l)	--		7	BDL	BDL

Particle Size Grading	Gross Pollutant Traps	Treatment Measures	Hydraulic Loading $Q_{des}/A_{facility}$
Gross Solids > 5000 $\mu m$		Sedimentation Basins (Wet & Dry)	1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr
Coarse-to Medium-sized Particulates 5000 $\mu m$ - 125 $\mu m$		Grass Swales Filter Strips Surface Flow Wetlands	100,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr 50,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr 5000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr
Fine Particulates 125 $\mu m$ - 10 $\mu m$		Infiltration Systems Sub-Surface Flow Wetlands	2500 m <sup>3</sup> /yr 1000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr
Very Fine/Colloidal Particulates 10 $\mu m$ - 0.45 $\mu m$			500 m <sup>3</sup> /yr 50 m <sup>3</sup> /yr
Dissolved Particles < 0.45 $\mu m$			10 m <sup>3</sup> /yr



## How Does LID Maintain or Restore The Hydrologic Regime?

- Creative ways to:
  - Maintain / Restore Storage Volume
    - interception, depression, channel
  - Maintain / Restore Infiltration Volume
  - Maintain / Restore Evaporation Volume
  - Maintain / Restore Runoff Volume
  - Maintain Flow Paths
- Engineer a site to mimic the natural water cycle functions / relationships

# LID Basics

## Principles Practices Process

## Key LID Principles “Volume” “Hydrology as the Organizing Principle”

- Unique Watershed Design
  - Match Initial Abstraction Volume
  - Mimic Water Balance
- Uniform Distribution of Small-scale Controls
- Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Systems
  - filter / detain / retain / use / recharge / evaporate
- Decentralized / Disconnection
- Multifunctional Multipurpose Landscaping & Architecture
- Prevention

## Defining LID Technology

### Major Components

1. Conservation (Watershed and Site Level)
2. Minimization (Site Level)
3. Strategic Timing (Watershed and Site Level)
4. Integrated Management Practices (Site Level)
  - Retain / Detain / Filter / Recharge / Use
5. Pollution Prevention
  - Traditional Approaches

## 1. Conservation Plans / Regulations

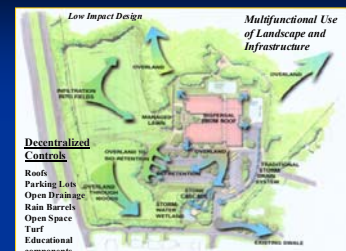
### ■ Local Watershed and Conservation Plans

- Forest (Contiguous and Interior Habitat)
- Streams (Corridors)
- Soils
- Recharge Areas
- Wetlands
- Habitats
- Step Slopes
- Buffers
- Critical Areas
- Parks
- Scenic Areas
- Trails



## 2. Minimize Impacts

- Minimize clearing
- Minimize grading
- Save A and B soils
- Limit lot disturbance
- Alternative Surfaces
- Reforestation
- Disconnect
  - Reduce pipes, curb and gutters
  - Reduce impervious surfaces





### 3. Maintain Time of Concentration

- Open Drainage
- Use green space
- Flatten slopes
- Disperse drainage
- Lengthen flow paths
- Save headwater areas
- Vegetative swales
- Maintain natural flow paths
- Increase distance from streams
- Maximize sheet flow



### 4. Storage, Detention & Filtration "LID IMP's"

#### ■ Uniform Distribution of Source Controls

- Open drainage swales
- Rain Gardens / Bioretention
- Smaller pipes and culverts
- Small inlets
- Depression storage
- Infiltration
- Rooftop storage
- Pipe storage
- Street storage
- Rain Water Use
- Soil Amendments\*



### 5. Pollution Prevention

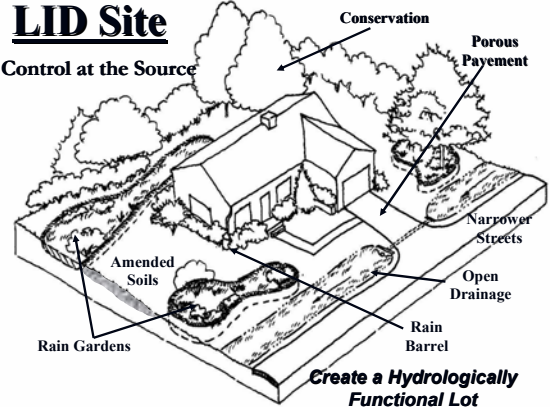
30 - 40% Reduction in N&P  
 Kettering Demonstration Project

- Maintenance
- Proper use, handling and disposal
  - Individuals
    - Lawn / car / hazardous wastes / reporting / recycling
  - Industry
    - Good house keeping / proper disposal / reuse / spills
  - Business
    - Alternative products / Product liability

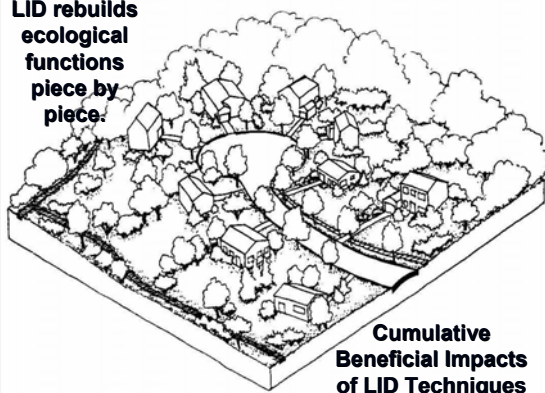


### LID Site

Control at the Source



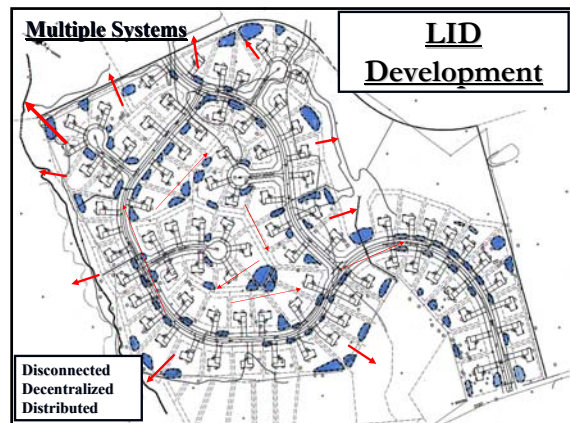
LID rebuilds  
 ecological  
 functions  
 piece by  
 piece.



Cumulative  
 Beneficial  
 Impacts  
 of LID Techniques

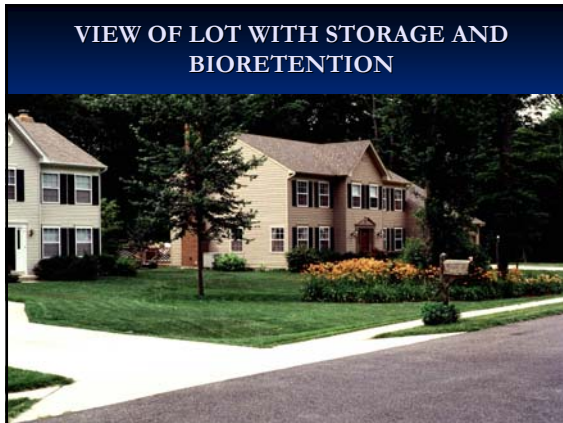
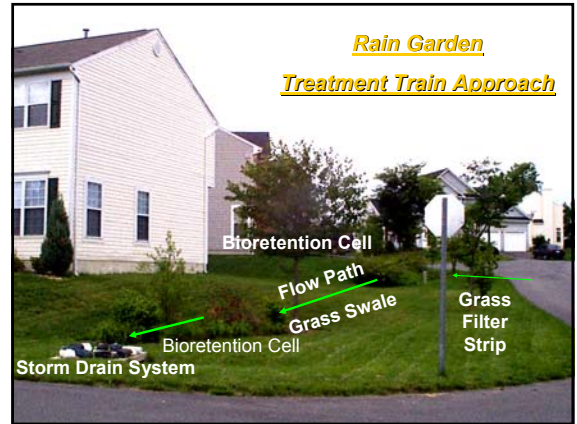
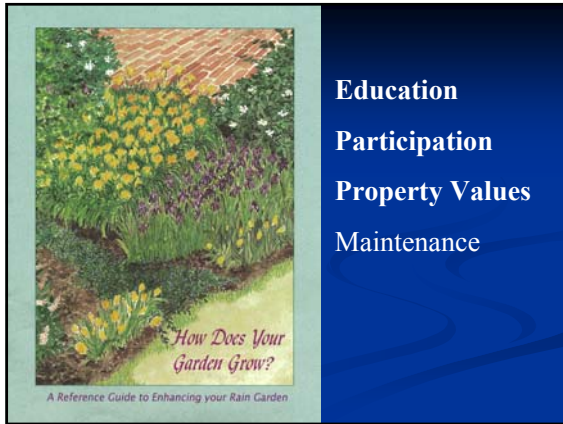
### Multiple Systems

### LID Development











## LID Practices (No Limit!)

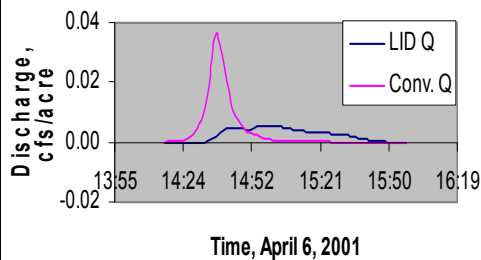
"Creative Techniques to Treat, Use, Store, Retain, Detain and Recharge"

- Bioretention / Rain Gardens\*
- Strategic Grading\*
- Site Finger Printing
- Conservation\*
- Flatter Wider Swales
- Amended Soils\*
- Long Flow Paths
- Tree / Shrub Depression
- Turf Depression
- Landscape Island Storage
- Rooftop Detention / Retention
- Disconnection\*
- Parking Lot / Street Storage
- Smaller Culverts, Pipes & Inlets
- Alternative Surfaces
- Reduce Impervious Surface
- Surface Roughness Technology
- Rain Barrels / Cisterns / Water Use\*
- Catch Basins / Seepage Pits
- Sidewalk Storage
- Vegetative Swales, Buffers & Strips\*
- Infiltration Swales & Trenches
- Eliminate Curb and Gutter
- Shoulder Vegetation
- Maximize Sheet flow
- Maintain Drainage Patterns
- Reforestation.....
- Pollution Prevention.....



## Monitoring Results

### Discharge Comparison



## Construction Cost Comparison

	Conventional	Low Impact
Grading/Roads	\$569,698	\$426,575
Storm Drains	\$225,721	\$132,558
SWM Pond/Fees	\$260,858	\$ 10,530
Bioretention/Micro	—	\$175,000
Total	\$1,086,277	\$744,663
Unit Cost	\$14,679	\$9,193
Lot Yield	74	81

"Technology can be a common ground for agreement by all parties if it does not increase costs and meets resource protection goals"

LID Technology is Supported by both the  
 National Association of Home Builders  
 and the  
 Natural Resources Defense Council



## LID Urban Retrofit

**“First Define Your Goals!”**

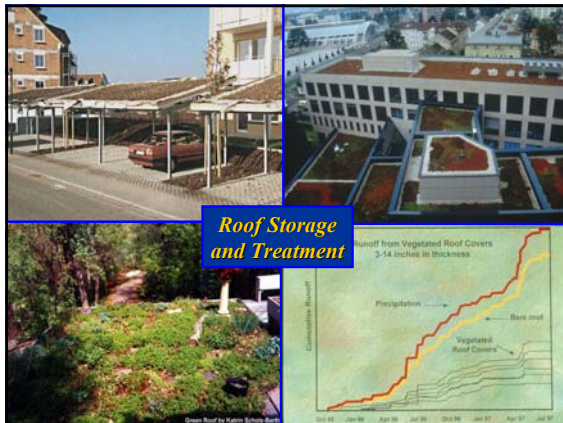
Water Quality  
 Water Supply  
 Fisheries  
 Recreational Use  
 ESA  
 CSO  
 Flood Control

## Urban LID Lot Level Control Opportunities

- Roofs
- Buildings
- Down Spouts
- Yards
- Sidewalks
- Parking Lots
- Landscape Areas
- Open space
- Amended Soils

### Multifunctional Infrastructure

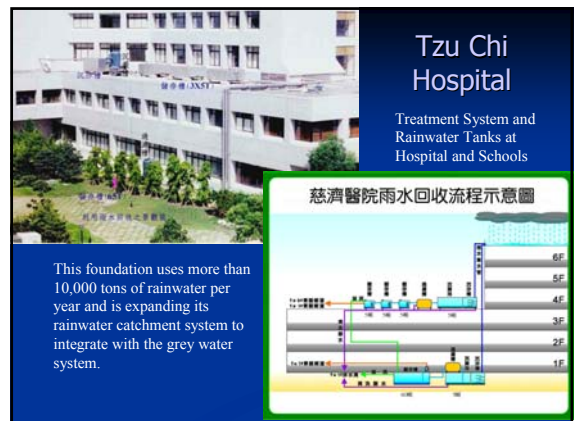
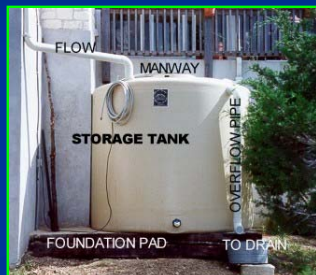
Retention  
 Detention  
 Filtration  
 Infiltration  
 Timing  
 Water Use  
 Prevention



### Buildings Design



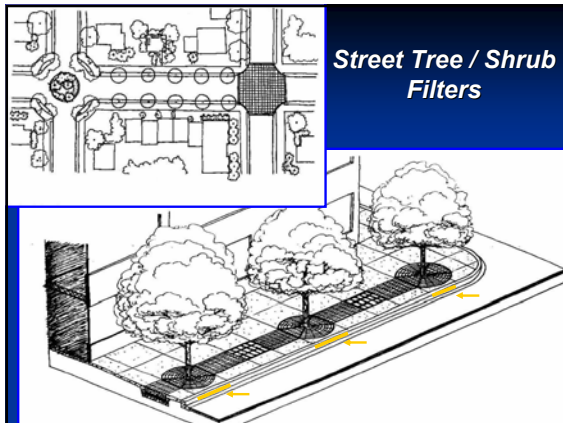
### Downspouts Disconnect / Water Use



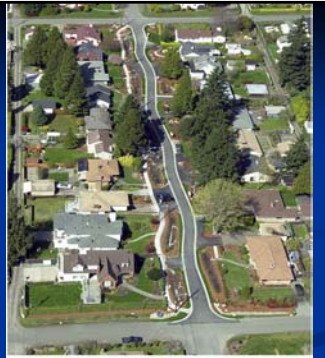








Seattle, WA  
"SEA" Street  
Street  
Edge  
Alternative



SEA Streets - After Construction  
2nd Ave SW - NW 117th St to NW 120th St



Fat Street



After Completion - January 2001

SEA Program, City of Seattle



Skinny Street with Fat Person

### Runoff Use / Filter





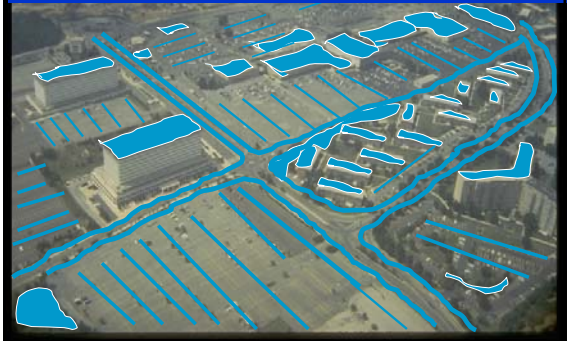
## Rouge Plant - Future



## Miller Road Frontage



Urban LID -- Rooftop Storage, Bioretention Landscaping, Parking Lot Storage, Longer Flow Paths, Swales, Water Use, Pollution Prevention .....

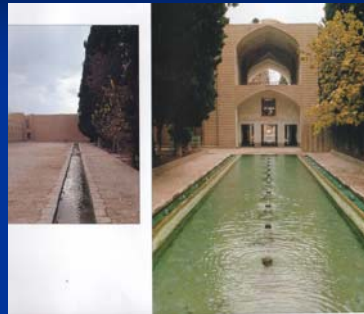


## Runoff Use



**Possibilities & Opportunities**

## ALHAMBRA





## ALHAMBRA



## RAIN CHAINS



## Multiple Benefits

- Replicate Predevelopment Water Balance
- Higher Pollutant Removal
- Increased Property Values
- Reduced Maintenance
- Energy Savings
- Reduced Thermal Pollution
- Reduced Safety Risks
- Increased Retrofit Opportunities
- Reduced Costs
- Less Destruction of the Wetland Habitat
- Technology / Science Based